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SJC Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

By Jenna Mullins, Staff Writer

On January 17, 2005, Americans across the country celebrated the national holiday honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Here in Rensselaer, students and faculty of SJC braved the frigid winter air to pay homage to King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality.

Buses from campus to the march site left at 1:30 p.m. Channel 18 in Lafayette covered the events. The festivities started with a march from the Jasper County Courthouse back to campus and ended with a program in the Shen auditorium

complete with speeches, music, and a mayoral proclamation declaring this day as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awareness Day."

Speaking at the event following the march was Dr. Mervyn A. Warren. He was introduced at the ceremony by last year's speaker, Rev. Franklin S. Hill, III, who is a fourth-generation gospel minister. Warren is internationally known for his studies on King and for his book: *King Came Preaching: The Pulpit Power of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Warren's address told of his experiences as a doctoral student at Oakwood

College in Hunstville, Alabama, and of his personal relationship with King.

After Warren's address, music filled the Shen auditorium, courtesy of Brighter Day International and the Community Christian Center Inspirational Choir. Diversity Coalition also held an essay contest that was open to elementary, middle school, high school, and Saint Joseph's College students. Awards were presented to Helen Heinig from Van Rensselaer Elementary School, Tiffany Greene from Rensselaer Central Middle School, Jessica Waling from Rensselaer Central High School, and Jessica Catron from SJC.

This was also the second year for the annual Martin Luther King Day Honoree. This year the Diversity Coalition recognized the service and values of SJC housekeeper Jeannie Bushman. The services were brought to a rousing and emotional finish with Diversity Coalition president Nikita Hall's performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Dr. Fredrick Greene, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Sociology and the faculty sponsor

of the program, thought that the day's events went wonderfully. "We had a great turn-out for the march, students and faculty alike. We had between 120 to 150 people come out," he said. This is Greene's second year heading up the events, and he is responsible for bringing the tradition of marching in honor of King back to the community. He started it up again last year, and is quite pleased with the response from the school as well as the community. He said, "It is a massive project, from scheduling speakers to picking out plants to display on the stage. There are literally hundreds of details."

The King celebration was a chance for everyone to honor and respect his timeless message. "Dr. King understood that as a Christian, you could accomplish change without stopping the practice of love," said Greene. "He was a well-respected man that blended two major things that inspired all walks of life. He combined the stylistic genre of traditional black preaching and an educated intellect. When you put that together, you get a speaker that moves the world."



SJC and Rensselaer community members show their support by participating in the march. Photo courtesy of Breain Ma'Aytech.

Locks of Love Donors Proclaim "Bald is Beautiful"

By Becky Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Intern

Many young women deem their hair to be their most prized asset. However, in 2004, five young women from SJC considered it their greatest gift when they shaved their heads and donated 60 total inches of hair to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children afflicted with diseases resulting in hair loss.

Sophomore Michelle Cimaroli donated 10 inches, the minimum required, before her arrival back to SJC this fall. More recently, right before Christmas, junior Heather Mikus and sophomore Ashley Hiss donated 14 inches and 16 inches, respectively, while senior Sarah Chalik and junior Amy Luskus each gave 10 inches. Senior Casey Wagner and junior Shelly Klotzbach, both veteran donors, did the snipping and the shaving, and all donations were mailed to Locks of Love.

Each student had her own reasons for donating. Cimaroli made her donation while she was a camp counselor at CYO Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, Indiana, integrating her decision into a camp activity. "It was a fixed game that whoever's name was picked from a hat had to shave their head. After mine was picked, I explained to them what I was doing," she said. "I wanted it to be a learning experience and show them that physical appearance isn't the most important image we have."

For Luskus and Chalik, the inspiration was more spontaneous. They were impressed by Cimaroli's summertime move and gave more thought to their own donation options. It wasn't until later in the year, however, that their hair was long enough to meet the minimum requirement. Both girls were in attendance for Hiss' head shave when they decided it was time to follow suit. "It's for a great cause and I wanted to help out," Luskus said. "It's just hair. I'm not trying to impress anyone."

As for Chalik, after completing a humanist manifesto of her beliefs for a fall semester class, she gave serious thought as to whether or not she was actively participating in the causes she believed in. "I was forced to define my beliefs and, after I did that formally, I realized that I wasn't doing enough to show my concern and support for those less fortunate than me," she said. "I have family members who have died from cancer, and I'm sure that if they could see me today, they'd be so proud."

For all of the women, part of the motivation stemmed from Wagner and Klotzbach, who donated their hair last year and are currently growing it back to make another donation.

Wagner has offered her hair to Locks of Love three times and personally knew the child who received her first contribution.

"During a hospital stay, I met a little girl named Gracie who was diagnosed with a rare terminal brain condition. I promised that as soon as I was better, I would give her my hair, but she died before I could," she said. "That's why I keep doing it - for girls like Gracie."

Hiss, a Nursing major whose 16-inch donation was the largest of the five, heard Wagner's story on a spiritual retreat last fall and decided to follow her example. "If there is one thing that I have learned, not only from nursing school but from all the experiences I have had with cancer, it's that treating a person's spirit is just as important as healing their body. And if having my hair will help give one person the confidence to face the world,

that's all the motivation I need," she said.

In public, it's not always easy. They've received stares, jeers, and insensitive questions from passersby, but the response from the SJC community has been overwhelmingly positive, with many encouraged to follow in their footsteps. With their new bond, all of the women believe they've been given an insight into what it's like for children who suffer from diseases resulting in hair loss. "We're all just growing our hair now to donate it," Cimaroli said. "It's not a permanent state for us. It'll grow back. Other people need it more."

For more information about Locks of Love, visit www.locksoflove.org.



From left to right: back row: Klotzbach, Wagner, Cimaroli, Mikus. Front row: Hiss, Chalik, Luskus. Photo courtesy of Georganne Weber.

Dear Pumas,

Anyone in the education program at SJC knows that my class, the class of 2005, is the first class of the "new" program for education majors and minors. This "new" program was the result of changing federal and state laws regarding education and involved a complete redevelopment of the entire course structure of the education program. Sounds like a positive thing, right? In theory, it should be, but as my class began to student teach this year, we quickly discovered that our class has served as the guinea pig for a program that, in my opinion, is not measuring up to the high quality of SJC academics.

One of the biggest problems that we, as the "trial run" for this new program, have encountered involves a lack of communication regarding important information and deadlines. Many of my fellow classmates have had to indefinitely postpone student teaching because no one

informed them that the Praxis II exam, a requirement for state licensure, had to be passed *before* student teaching. In the old program, education students had until the end of the fifteen weeks of student teaching to pass this test, and many past alumni have actually graduated and been hired in school corporations without having successfully passed the test. For us, however, this changed, and many of my fellow classmates did not learn of this change until this past September, affording them little opportunity to take and pass the test. I'm not blaming anyone in particular for this lack of communication, but the fact that at least 50% of second semester student teachers were unaware of this change does seem to indicate a huge problem.

Many of the courses which education majors and minors are required to take were changed with the new program, and unfortunately several of these classes are highly unsuccessful.

For example, the class required before student teaching is called "Reflections and Professional Development," and in my opinion, is largely a waste of time. It is my understanding that this class is supposed to be the equivalent of the now-lost Core X education section, which was always taken concurrently with student teaching. After all, how can you reflect on teaching if you haven't done it yet?

This brings me now to another huge problem—the loss of the Core X education section. One of the characteristics of the education program at SJC that made it far superior to similar programs at other colleges and universities was the fact that student teachers always had a support system of faculty and other student teachers supporting them once a week in their Core X class as they took on the task of teaching. Our class essentially has no formal support. We have neither formal, regular contact

with education professors, nor regular contact with our peers who are experiencing similar trials and tribulations. Student teaching is not easy by any means, and without that support, many of us feel lost and alone on a daily basis.

The truly upsetting thing about this situation is that last year, several members of my class tried to get these problems changed before we began student teaching. However, our attempts were fruitless as we soon discovered that we were being fed lie after lie. First, members of the education department told us that the education section of Core X would not be eliminated, and they assured us that we had no cause for concern. However, when registration booklets were distributed in November, we discovered the truth: education Core X was indeed no longer offered.

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Walking In a Winter Wonder-Hell

By Bob Jansen, *Columnist*

When I was fairly young, my dad came home and told me that he needed my help. During one of our morning Masses that Sunday, a large pile of snow had fallen off the church roof and Dad, the loyal custodian, wanted to clean it before church let out. With quick action, the elderly parishioners' brittle hips could be spared from breaking or bruising. I put on my little snowsuit and proudly followed Dad off to work.

When we got there, Dad gave me a little shovel and told me to dig in. He, of course, cleared most of the mess up by himself, but I gave what aid I could. When we were done, Dad walked over to talk to someone and I stayed behind to clear a little more snow from the edge of the sidewalk. All of a sudden I heard a loud roar, and my entire body was almost instantly covered from the remaining snow on the church roof. I tried to scream Dad's name, but my mouth was buried as well. With frustration born of fear, I blinked angrily at the snow

and thought mean things at the cursed roof, which had cast this frozen anguish upon me. Dad quickly came and rescued me from my plight, repairing a bruised arm and a bruised dignity.

To be honest, I've held a rather negative view of snow ever since. I do enjoy watching a snowfall from the vantage point of my nice warm room while under a blanket. However, having to shovel the stuff or sloshing through the coal-festered crap when it melts on campus makes my blood run cold. Except for a random snowball fight here and there, I really wish the Midwest's climate allowed for 70 degrees with bright sunshine or even spring rain for 350 days a year.

What happened to that childlike view of snow I once had? Where is the perspective that allowed me to see a snowfall as a giant playground instead of a coal-darkened disaster?

Obviously, the corollary here is to faith in general. Michael W. Smith put it quite eloquently when he sang "There was a boy

who had the faith to move a mountain / and like a child he would believe without a reason. / Without a trace he disappeared into the void and / I've been searching for that missing person." As kids, we see things from a beautiful vantage point: the world is our playground and God is everywhere around us. We don't need to go to church to see God at work; we can see him anywhere we turn. As adults, we sometimes lose this perspective.

Perhaps my two struggles are related. When I quit seeing God in snow, I quit enjoying snow. When I stopped seeing God in a rainstorm, I no longer enjoyed splashing in puddles. When I missed God in sunshine, I began to wear sunglasses to blot out the garish light.

As we continue in what I consider the bleakest time of year, I challenge you to join me in trying to see something extraordinary in the ordinary. Don't see the ugly black snow. See God's fingerprints on each flake as it falls. Don't feel the

bite of the arctic Indiana wind. Sense the breath of God kissing the trees and turning them white. Don't see dawn as that cursed moment when classes begin. Feel the warmth of God's love shining down to greet us. Perspective is crucial to surviving in this world. We can either be buried in our cold view or celebrate the beauty of life. In other words, it's our choice to see the dignity in creation. Even if creation sometimes sprains our pride (or buries us in snow), it is still beautiful because that is what God intended.

"As the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ reveals the love and mercy of God and, through his identification with human existence culminating in the cross and resurrection, restores human beings to their likeness to God which had been disfigured by sin. Indeed, the whole cosmos is redeemed and made into a new creation." — Elizabeth Johnson, *Consider Jesus*

FEATURED PHILOSOPHICAL FARCE

By Matt LeClaire, *Columnist*

Hold the Garlic

It's been a while since I've visited the dentist, but I did see a vampire movie recently. I don't recall the name, and it doesn't really matter; however, there are some things that got me thinking. Despite the iron consumption and hemoglobin binges, vampires always have very clean teeth. Sure, it's possible to have clean teeth and suck blood, but I doubt they would be that shiny from brushing and flossing alone. This line of reasoning makes me think that vampires must frequent a dentist's office. I

don't know if they go to a vampire dentist, or just one that is open 24 hours, but they most certainly go to one. Of course, their cleaning would be a little more cumbersome than a typical human's. For one thing, their cuspids are substantially larger; also, it would be hard to clean the back gum line without the use of a mirror. If the dentist were not a vampire, though, the job would have its perks. First, the vampire couldn't suck your blood for at least a half hour after his cleaning, so that would give anyone within a four-mile radius

a stay of execution. And second, most people see a recurring dentist, so one could count on not being drained by one of his or her clients. If the vampire kills his dentist, he will have to find a new one, and eventually that will get old. In short, if you start to see an unusually large number of people drinking dark red liquids, you may want to enroll in dental school. Oh, and buy some garlic, whittling tools, and large chunks of wood.

Won an award? Aced a project? Accepted an internship?

If you have an accomplishment that you'd like to share with your hometown newspaper, fill out a "Student Achievement Form" so the Office of Publications and Media Relations can issue a news release about you! News can also be submitted to Director Bree Ma'Ayteh by e-mailing breaia@saintjoe.edu or calling extension 6177. Forms can also be faxed to her at 866-6354.

To access the form online, visit the "Current Students" OR "News" link on the SJC Web site and click on "Student Achievement Form."

PAWS:

...to everyone who has made a contribution to the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund.



CLAWS:

...to anyone who hasn't thought of a Valentine's Day present for his or her sweetheart.

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Letter to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

Upon further questioning, the Education department claimed that the Core planners felt that the education section of Core X deprived education students of the full Core experience. This might have been acceptable if members of the Core faculty hadn't already implicated the education department for the decision to eliminate this class. At this point, it is impossible for me to discern the truth among all of these lies.

I'm not writing as a complaint but rather as a plea to the underclassmen education students. It is too late for my class, but it is not too late for you. The class of 2005 has been your guinea pig, so take my advice and start taking action now. Hopefully you will be able to make the changes that we were unable to make, and the program will regain the high level of excellence that we at SJC deserve.

-- Sandra Wood, senior

Jan. 28: Saint Thomas Aquinas Feast Day

By Jacob Lofgren, Staff Writer

Have you ever considered January 28 a particularly important date? If you have not, you should stop and take notice. It is the feast day of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of all universities and students. In addition, he serves as the patron saint of Catholic education. Saint Joseph's College is a Catholic education institution, so it is important to fill students in on who Thomas Aquinas was and how he came to be the patron saint of Catholic education.

Born in 1226, Aquinas was placed in the care of the Benedictines of Monte Casino by his father. The Benedictines offered Aquinas a great education in a variety of subjects and skills. Aquinas impressed his teachers with the speed at which he learned and the progress he made in short time. He quickly became the prize pupil, surpassing his fellow students in learning and in the practice of Catholic virtues.

Later in life, Aquinas decided to join the Dominican Order, despite his family's opposition. His family tried on many occasions to break his vocation,

but failed on each account. Aquinas's dedication to his vocation led God to confer on him the gift of perfect chastity, which is why today he holds the title of "Angelic Doctor."

Aquinas later moved on to study under St. Albert the Great in Naples. Due to his enormous size and typical silence, Aquinas earned the nickname "dumb ox." Do not be fooled by the nickname; Aquinas was actually an incredible student. At twenty-two, Aquinas was a teacher himself and was publishing the first of his theological works. By thirty-one, he was both an ordained priest and had received his doctorate.

Throughout the remainder of his life, Aquinas was offered a number of opportunities for advancement within the church, including a teaching position in Rome and the office of bishop in Naples. He refused both honors and chose instead to preach and teach to the common people, while completing his unfinished and famous work, "Summa Theologica." Aquinas died on his way to the Council of Lyon in 1274 and was canonized a saint

1323, at which time he also received the title "Doctor of the Church."

While the life of Aquinas may not be the most exciting or most intriguing of tales, it does provide insight into the foundations of Catholic education and a greater insight into the development of Catholic theology. One need look no further than the SJC Core Program to see the vital importance of Aquinas's works, as part of his writings are assigned as required reading.

For more information see <http://www.catholic.org/saints>.



Image courtesy of <http://www.scbartomeo.org/images/saints/thomas.jpg>

Feb. 4: Feast Day of St. Maria de Mattias

2/4/1805 - 8/20/1866

Beatified: 10/1/1950
Canonized: 5/18/2003



Image courtesy of <http://www.ilgiornalino.net/immagini/notizie/mariademattias2.jpg>

Fountain Stone Theaters Proclaims Tuesdays "Saint Joe Day"

By Becky Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Intern

Fountain Stone Theaters, Rensselaer's new movie theater, is offering a discounted refreshment price for SJC students, faculty, and staff. Declared "Saint Joe Day," the theater will offer College community members a combination of a small beverage and popcorn for the price of \$2, a savings of nearly \$4. In order to take advantage of this special savings, valid SJC identification must be presented at the time of purchase.

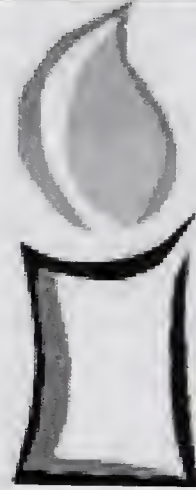
"The students and staff of SJC were instrumental in helping along the politics of building a theater in Rensselaer," Eric Jackson, owner of Fountain Stone, said. "The students of the College are a fantastic asset to the theater. Furthermore, I want to make sure that the faculty and staff are included because they are just as important to the town of Rensselaer."

For more information about Fountain Stone Theaters or for movie show times, call 219-866-2222 or visit www.fountainstonetheaters.com.

Respect Life Candlelight Vigil

Friday, February 4
9 p.m.
Chapel

Sponsored by Right To
Life



Basketball Player's Goodwill Inspires Donation for SJC

By Breain Ma'Ayeh, Director of Publications and Media Relations

"Treat others as you would want to be treated."

A simple instruction, one most of us are taught to recite even before the alphabet, and one that SJC senior Courtney Rosenbaum took to heart when she came face-to-face with a luggage bag filled with items worth thousands of dollars.

It began on October 22nd, after a day-long meeting of SJC's Board of Trustees, and a board member and his wife (who wish to remain anonymous) were preparing to make the journey from Rensselaer to a wedding in Indianapolis. However, they didn't get far before realizing that one of their bags, which contained a laptop computer, two digital cameras, a pager, and several work-related identification cards, was missing. The couple reported the loss to SJC's Office of Safety and Security but believed the odds of getting it back were slim.

However, when Rosenbaum located the luggage bag on her way to basketball practice that same day, she wasn't thinking about her profit potential. She was more concerned with getting the property back to its rightful owner. "When I looked inside to

find a laptop, I was completely shocked that something this valuable was left behind. I figured that someone must have been pretty busy or else it wouldn't have been forgotten," she said.

When SJC President Ernest Mills III informed the couple that their bag had been located and, more importantly, the belongings were still intact, they felt moved to show a token of gratitude in honor of the person who returned it. By Thanksgiving, they had written a letter to Mills, in which a check of \$1,000 was enclosed.

"Please tell them that they reflect the genuine spirit of Christ in the integrity they demonstrated in this situation," the letter stated. "Please do let them know of the gift that was given in response to their honesty and integrity."

SJC gave Rosenbaum the opportunity to choose which groups would receive the money. To recognize her role as both an athlete and an Elementary Education major, she decided to evenly distribute the sum between the women's basketball program and Education Department.

"Without the Education Department, I would not be the person I am today; without basketball, I may not have been able to come to SJC," Rosenbaum said. Regarding the whole experience, she added, "Turning in the laptop seemed not only the right thing to do, but just natural. It wasn't mine, so I didn't keep it. That was a huge amount of money for doing something that seemed so small."

In the couple's eyes, that "small" act spoke volumes about

the character of the students and staff at Saint Joseph's College. "We're so grateful for everyone's help," they said. "We especially appreciate the significant role President Mills played in this process. He was so involved, making phone calls, issuing e-mails to the campus community, even returning the bag to us personally. He went way beyond what a college president needed to do in a situation like that. We were very moved."



Rosenbaum and John Keller, Dean of Students. Picture courtesy of Breain Ma'Ayeh.

Meeting the Human Face of Islam: a Public Forum to Promote Understanding of Islamic Culture and Religion

Thursday, February 17,
6:30 PM
Rensselaer Public Library
Open to the public

For more information, contact
Rev. Keith Kincaid at
fcc@nwiis.com

Co-sponsored by Campus Ministry

The Columbian Players Present:

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

Feb. 3, 4, 5
8:00 p.m.
Science Building
Auditorium

SJC students, faculty, and
staff admitted free-of-charge

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



photo courtesy of Moreno

The Decemberists Strike in January

I walked into Schubas at twenty past nine to discover one of the most respectable crowds I have ever seen for a solo acoustic show. Colin Meloy of the Decemberists was gracing the stage to support his tour, which only the EP of Morrissey covers. All around me were avid fans of the Decemberists and Morrissey. With beer bottles in their hands and lit cigarettes between their fingers, the crowd eagerly awaited Mr. Meloy to take the stage.

It was about a quarter to eleven, and the two opening acts, Quasar Wut Wut and Shelly Short, had already played their acoustic sets. Suddenly, Colin Meloy walked out onto the stage and began to tune his guitar. Once he was ready, he smiled and said "hello" to test the microphone. The show was about to begin.

His decision to open the show with "Shiny," a song he composed for his first EP, brought a smile to the faces of many patrons that night. As the night progressed, he played songs that told stories of stolen bicycles, gymnasts, and infanticide. In between songs he told the audience stories of how he composed songs and even gave the audience a little instruction in music theory. With each song and story Colin told or sang, the crowd became more ecstatic and playful.

About five songs into Meloy's set list, he stopped playing in order to tell the

audience about his Morrissey EP. As many of his fans could have probably guessed, making a cover EP of Morrissey songs completed his "teenage fantasy." When an audience member asked if Morrissey himself had heard his renditions, Colin laughed and told us he did not send Morrissey a copy. Apparently he hadn't gone through all the "correct channels" for making this EP. He jokingly instructed us not to tell Morrissey when we "picked him up for carpool" and then broke out into his version of "Sister, I'm A Poet."

As the night progressed, Colin continued to treat his fans. The Decemberists will be issuing a new record in March entitled *Picaresque*. At this show, he played three new songs off the album. Every fan of the Decemberists was delighted to receive a taste of the new upcoming album.

After a fifteen-song set list and a generous encore, Colin reminded his fans that "March is the cutest month to put out a record." Giving the necessary plug-in for his band's new album, he told us where we could catch him and the rest of his bandmates the next time they were in Chicago. With those words, Colin left the stage. Slowly, the delighted fans exited, leaving behind their empty beer bottles and smoked cigarettes.

For more information, see <http://www.decemberists.com/>

The Importance of Seeing Earnest

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

The scene change begins and a table is dragged offstage and replaced by a blue couch and matching loveseat as Kristi Zurawski holds back the curtain for the movers. Liz Henning sits on a bench backstage hemming her costume's deep green jacket, breaking the thread with her teeth. Stage Manager Erin Diener and Assistant Stage Manager Georganne Weber stand ready to feed lines when memory fails. With a call of "Places!" by Director John Rahe, who takes a seat in the auditorium, the Act III dress rehearsal for Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" starts.

"We were looking for a comedy and settled on what's probably the most popular play in the English language," Rahe said, a director for roughly 75 previous shows. "All plays are different but this is a nice mistaken-identity plot classically done. It has been performed every year since it's been written."

Up two flights of stairs into the crypts of faux pearls, a wall of hats and shoes, and cardboard boxes overflowing with scarves and belts, Liz Henning demands that BJ Houlding "Pull those pants up to Victorian height!" Henning balances costume design, otherwise known as

"dissection and taxidermy," and portraying Lady Bracknell with partner Marcie Keyes, who also gracing the stage as Miss Prism.

"Doing both is actually a lot of fun and a lot easier to establish a rapport with the actors," Henning said. "I get to know them on a personal level."

As Henning destroys a 1980s bridesmaid dress to create a peach vest and skirt for the character of Gwendolyn, the set department deals with a complicated backdrop scheme.

"The challenge with this play was the technical matters. The play requires three separate settings that our stage isn't really set up for, so we are using a realistic unit set," Rahe said of the two different indoor and one outdoor scenes.

Andrew Jendraszak's work-study position allowed him to work on the pieced together "Frankenstein-esque" set. "Set design is slightly creative and it is appealing to do something with my hands," he said.

The set designers also had to work around Columbian Players Club President Cortny Woodruff's one-act directing study called "Trifles." "In the middle of 'Earnest' practices we had to make sure there was

enough room in the wings for her production to go on," Jendraszak said.

Language was another challenge for the cast.

"We are also working on proper pronunciation for American accents on a very British script," Rahe said.

Kristi Zurawski, Vice President of the 107-year-old Columbian Players Club said, "It was difficult trying to get rid of my Detroit accent and trying to act like a proper Victorian with my chin in the air." She played Gwendolyn Fairfax, a character that Zurawski described as "very flighty yet at the same time knows what she wants and knows how to get what she wants."

Completing the cast along with Henning, Keyes, and Zurawski were Kent Sayler (Jack), Chris Moran (Algernon), Kelly Bielak (Cecily), Danny Waclaw (Dr. Chasuble), BJ Houlding (Lane), and Angie Quartuccio (Merriman).

"The Importance of Being Earnest" will be held February 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 8:00 in the College Theatre. Saint Joseph's College students, faculty, and staff receive free admission and intermission refreshments will be served.

De-Lovely Fails to Deliver

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

"So let me get this straight," Mr. Average Moviegoer states. "A song-and-dance man plays out homosexual tendencies?"

"Scandalous!" Mrs. Average Moviegoer replies.

"And he marries a rich lady who happens to put a blind eye to his social indiscretions?"

"You don't say!"

"And his lyrics and his life are somehow interchangeable, as if to say not only that art imitates life, but that his life may very well imitate his art, too?"

"Well, did you evah! What a swell movie this is!"

Thus go the plot conversations of all the people who have seen *De-Lovely*—a biopic about the rise and fall of songwriter Cole Porter that has recently been released on DVD. Indeed, the plot of *De-Lovely* is not exactly the stuff that fine cinema is made of; in fact, the plot of the movie is decidedly random and unrevealing about Cole Porter's life, as it dismisses many opportunities to shed

light on the psychology at work behind the characters.

Meghan Lehmann of the *Washington Post* perhaps said it best: "...all the surface razzle-dazzle fails to mask the emptiness at its core."

Very true. But then why are people flocking to see this film? Perhaps it has to do with the "surface razzle-dazzle" to which Lehmann alludes. The really great part of the movie is undoubtedly the music. Porter's hilariously witty lyrics and simple accompaniment are taken on a whole different level in this film, with songs varying from the fantastically sensual (as in Sheryl Crow's version of "Begin the Beguine") to the hilariously random (as can be seen with Elvis Costello's version of "Let's Misbehave!").

A big part of the great music in the film is the huge number of fantastic entertainers performing them. From Alanis Morissette to Diana Krall, from Robbie Williams of all people to an

Ethel Merman look-alike, it's all here. The Ethel Merman look-alike (Caroline O'Connor) is perhaps one of the most interesting singers in the film, as she sounds and moves exactly as one would expect Ms. Merman herself to do.

Perhaps the only odd musical number in the movie is "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," the eleven o'clock number from *Anything Goes*. For this song, Jonathan Pryce takes center stage. Pryce is by the aging Porter's side as Porter remembers his life, although his presence is never really explained. Therefore, it is too weird that Jonathan Pryce leads all of Porter's dearest friends and lovers around while they sing the final big show number of the film.

But nevertheless, the film keeps a light-hearted beat, and the music never stops a-comin'. And as far as the music goes, it certainly is *De-Lovely*.

Kairos XL: Are You Ready to “Live the Fourth”?

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

Phrases like “Live the Fourth” have been in abundance on campus lately as participants, leaders, and rectors for Kairos XL prepared for the upcoming retreat, held on January 27-30, 2005. For those unfamiliar with the Kairos retreat, questions about the nature of Kairos, its origins, and the experience can be expected. As such, we will take a look back at the history of Kairos and its evolution throughout the years it has been offered at SJC, and hear from current rectors about what the retreat has to offer for Pumas today.

The Kairos retreat format evolved out of Saint Ignatius’ Spiritual Exercises, in which retreatants spend four days and three nights (although this number can vary) listening to talks, participating in small group discussions, and

reflecting. The Kairos format is fairly flexible, allowing groups to adjust to the retreat format as needed to best suit the needs of the participants. A popular retreat format offered nationwide, Kairos has been a staple of SJC’s Campus Ministry program since 1986, and it seems like Kairos is here to stay. According to Brother Tim Hemm, Director of Campus Ministry, “Kairos was brought to SJC by a number of students who were involved in it when they were in high school. They thought that it would be a good ‘fit’ for SJC. At the time, Fr. Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S., College Chaplain, mentioned: ‘If this works here, it could really change the institution and campus ministry.’” Fr. Berinti spoke the truth. Since its appearance at SJC, Kairos has remained a popular retreat with students; originally



A picture from a 2002 Kairos retreat features students studying and reflecting on the day’s lessons. Image courtesy of the Campus Ministry page at www.saintjoe.edu.

offered twice a year, Campus ministry began offering Kairos three times a year in the 2002-2003 academic year as interest increased.

The purpose of Kairos, according to Hemm, is “to give the students and team the opportunity amidst their busy lives, a four-day period of time where they don’t really worry about deadlines, etc., a four-day period of time during which they can take time to

reflect on their own life, their relationship with each other, and their families and friends, and their relationship with God.” Senior Brian Bugajski, co-rector for Kairos XL, echoed Hemm’s statement, saying that introspection and self-discovery is one of the reasons students are drawn to Kairos. He explained, “This is college, a time when we are supposed to be ‘finding ourselves.’ I believe that Kairos is a big part of that for the retreatants that decide to take part. Like I’ve said before, Kairos is the miracle-grow for the tree of man.” Fellow rector and senior Cortny Woodruff indicates that the individuality of the retreat is part of the appeal as well: “I think Kairos appeals to so many people because you have the chance to make it your own. You can think back on that weekend and just become

all smiles knowing the time you had with a group of people you became close to.” No matter what prompts students to attend Kairos, one thing remains the same: Kairos is a life-changing experience, no matter how many times you attend.

Kairos is a retreat experience that cannot be described; it can only be fully understood by participation. If you are interested in more information about the Kairos retreat, you can contact Brother Tim Hemm at timh@saintjoe.edu. Lastly, “Live the Fourth.” Not sure what that means? Take the Kairos challenge and discover it for yourself.

Kairos retreat program background information courtesy of www.jrh-cleveland.org.

Seizing Power

By Joe Larson, Features Editor

As the more astute students on campus have noticed, something has disturbed the natural order of the universe. The signs are everywhere: weather patterns are erratic, cows are giving sour milk, and the local werewolf population is tripling every forty-eight hours. Some try to explain away these events as the work of scientific phenomena or gypsy magic, but the truth is that my ascendance to power is mostly to blame. Despite a solid record of systematic incompetence over the past year and a half, I recently became the new features editor for *The Observer*.

As everyone knows, to become an editor, you must kill a current editor, or luck out when that editor transfers to another school. Some will claim that Natalie Lapacek peacefully retired from her position as features editor in order to attend Evangel University. My version of the story is better because it involves heavily armed Cuban exiles and a musical interlude performed by an undead version of Bob Hope—but that story is for the next issue.

As the new features editor, I should probably list a series of lofty goals I will never be able to meet. I promise to always be honest, and I can honestly say that pretty much everything I say as editor will be a lie. I can guarantee that the features section will lose all journalistic integrity but gain a marginally unpleasant odor. I think it balances out.

I plan to blame everything on someone else. Find an inaccurate story? Dan Rather did it. Is there a typo? Blame it on global warming. All hate mail can be directed to my home address. My name is Jimmy Carter.

Everything will be done late. The features section will probably arrive two days after the rest of the paper, and even then most of the articles will just be reprinted from an old issue. It’s technically not plagiarism as long as I change the title and add some profanity at the end.

All space not covered by old articles or obscene stick drawings will be filled with vague threats against charities and other non-profit organizations. Whether the cause is food for the starving or education for the underprivileged, I promise to always side against the cause of human decency. If I don’t crush the defenseless, who will?

Finally, I plan to revise the English language as I see fit. All misspellings and grammatical errors are deliberate, without exception. Instead of making me a bad writer, these “mistakes” distinguish me as a linguistic visionary. By following these simple guidelines, I hope to enjoy a long and successful career in writing that lasts until this issue is published, at which point I will probably be fired and exiled to Canada.

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

When returning to campus from the long winter break, many students are required to trudge across campus to the Registrar, Business Office, or Financial Aid Office in order to get cleared for second semester. I was doing just that earlier this semester when I noticed some changes occurring in the building where all three offices are housed. My curiosity got the best of me, and so this “Stuff” column will attempt to summarize the rich history of Xavier-McHale Hall.

The building which holds the Xavier-McHale Hall name was erected in the fall of 1940; however, the name of Xavier Hall can be traced back to 1894. The name was originally used to represent part of the massive Administration Building which burned to the ground in 1973. The Administration Building, following an addition which doubled the building’s size,

was split into two halls in 1894. “The secular students, whose study-hall was known as St. Aquino Hall, occupied the north end of the building, and the community students, whose study-hall was known as St. Xavier Hall, occupied the south end of the building,” states the *Saint Joseph’s Chronology*.

The outbreak of World War II brought about low construction prices, and the C.P.P.S. took advantage of this by erecting three buildings which still serve us today: Merlini Hall, Alumni Fieldhouse, and the building known as Xavier Hall. Market Street Construction Co. of Logansport, Indiana was contracted to build all three buildings in 1940. The new hall was to serve as a dormitory for the seminarians, separating them from the lay students. The name of Xavier followed the seminarians to the new building. Xavier Hall was large enough to house 85 students, and interestingly contained an extra room for the bishop or other important figures, such as Dwight Eisenhower, when they were visiting campus. The hall also housed a locker room, recreation and club rooms, and multiple study rooms.

Xavier Hall was home to all of the seminarians on campus until 1973 when the Ad Building fire changed the entire campus. It was decided that Xavier Hall should be immediately transformed into

administration offices. Class was cancelled for one week as the changes were made in Xavier Hall and other buildings on campus. The club and locker rooms were turned into the Business Office and Marketing Office; the study halls were converted into the Registrar’s Office, Public Relations Office, Financial Aid Office and Admissions Office; and the bishop’s room was converted into the office for the President of the College. The third floor of the building ceased to be a barracks style dormitory and became the math lab and office of Fr. Phil Gilbert, C.P.P.S.

The building received its current name in 1982. According the *SJC Pictorial History*, authored by Fr. Gerlach, C.P.P.S., “It was named in honor of Frank McHale in 1982, an old friend and generous benefactor of the College who served on various boards of the College.” Fr. Gerlach goes on to state that, “If one enters the building from the north, one can still see chiseled in stone the original name, Xavier Hall.”

The name has changed. New renovations are being made as you read this article. However, one fact remains; Xavier-McHale Hall is and will continue to house the administrative brain-center that makes SJC a reality.

SJC Football Plans For New Season

A Special Report from **Ken Badylak**

Coach Esposito is a giant in the Rensselaer community if not only by stature but by his personality. Originally from Toms River, New Jersey, Esposito went to Memphis University and became a captain of the football team. After stints of playing and coaching in the Arena Football League, his old roommate Tim Lester brought him to Saint Joseph's College to be part of his staff.

When Lester and his assistant and Rensselaer roommate Jake Moreland went back to their alma mater Western Michigan to coach, Esposito was named head football coach by Athletic Director Bill Massoels. It was an appointment that seemed to calm the air amongst players who were ready to leave SJC for good after they realized Lester was leaving.

Now the 28-year-old Esposito spends his time preparing for next season. Showing as much enthusiasm as his players, Esposito speaks clearly and rapidly about the talented group of freshman he plans to bring in for next season. Obviously excited for next season, Esposito seemed to be ready to accomplish his mission when he came to Saint Joseph's College last winter. "We are a year older and we want to be in the playoffs," said Esposito as he took a swig from the gallon jug of water behind his desk. "We want to be the (NCAA) Division II National Champions."

The schedule does favor the Pumas next season with six home games and only five on the road. In fact, the Pumas will play eight games within the state of Indiana, Butler and Valparaiso being the two in-state away games. Another road game will be just over the border at Saint Francis. The major roads games will be at Austin Peay and Northwood.

Along with a tougher schedule, the Pumas will have a representative at the NCAA Division II Playoff Selection Committee, either Massoels or Esposito himself. Both men are the current faces on the re-developing Great Lakes Football Conference (GLFC) which begins its first official season in 2006. Due to contractual obligations, there will not be a conference championship until 2006 but

most of the teams will play each other next season.

Esposito starts his days sometimes before 6 a.m. with a morning running session for his team. He and his assistants perform all football-related coaching activities themselves. They are not only coaches but also equipment managers, maintenance people, and, in some cases, trainers. "We do everything ourselves," said Esposito, and then paused to answer the phone. He picked up the phone and shouted "Football!" After a few quick words, Esposito smiled and hung up the phone, picking up the conversation as if there were not any interruptions.

Later the coach explained that there are some advantages to taking on so much responsibility. He said that everything is run the way the coaches want it and all the little things are taken care of with special attention to detail. However, other schools and football programs have the luxury of having more assistants. The typical Division II football program has at least 12-13 coaches on staff.

For the past few weeks, when Esposito has not been talking to recruits on the phone, he's been on the road trying to get high school seniors to commit to SJC. The difference this season is that Esposito has a better feel for Division II talent. Being a Division I athlete, he has no problem identifying talent, but when he sees a recruit sign with the University of Michigan, he realizes that that player was out of SJC's league.

Next season, there will be particular attention to both offensive and defensive lines. Esposito ideally wants to bring in four players for each line. Also on the recruiting list are two players for the secondary, a quarterback, and a kicker. So far this season, the coaching staff has only brought in their top rated prospects based on their grading system.

Although he was beaming about the players that gave him the verbal commitments he has received already, he was concerned about the loss of a few players because of the current facilities. "Three or four of our

top recruits would come here if our facilities were better," said Esposito.

Later in the day Esposito prepared himself for the afternoon team workout. As the team got into the weight room, he was impressed with the effort being put forth. In the past, if the coaches made a workout optional, few players would show up. Nowadays, over 85 % of the team will come in and lift for an optional workout. "These kids are young and do not really know any better. They are young and are doing everything we ask," he said. "I didn't make one play last year." Reflecting back on a piece of advice one of his old coaches gave him, he remembers: "Its not about X's and O's; its about Billy and Joe. They make their breaks. We can win with intensity, emotion, and heart."

Although he keeps long hours, Esposito is adjusting to life in Rensselaer. He thinks the people are nice and is pleased to work so closely to a golf course, where he plays frequently, as well as having the new option of seeing a movie in town at the new theater. "I can't find something to eat late at night but I can buy a gun," Esposito joked, referring to

Jerry's Gun Shop less than a mile away from campus.

He also amuses himself by reading, a habit he considers one of his hobbies. Pointing over to a table in his office, Esposito remarked, "I have read all of those books." The selection included *The Punch*, *The Davinci Code*, *Akins Diet*, and *Marketing*, among others. "Well, I have read all those books except the Akins book. I skimmed that one for recipes," Esposito said. "I am on the diet but I don't know how you can go without eating carbs, so I modified the diet to the Lou Esposito Akins diet. I only eat carbs in the morning to get some energy."

As he shuffled through some papers on his desk, the phone rang

again. A few smiles and laughs later he hung up, and then picked up the conversation right where it left off again.

Esposito looked at the calendar to plan his recruiting trip to Florida in February. Although the Florida event happens after the National Signing Day, last year SJC signed seven players to their roster, five of which started or had significant playing time this season. Esposito shrugged and admitted that the national event is mostly for Division III schools to recruit, but there are plenty of opportunities to find quality, hard working kids that like to play football.



All pictures courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home Games

February 3

Women's Basketball vs Quincy 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Quincy 7:30 p.m.

February 5

Men's and Women's Track and Field vs. Findlay 10 a.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Missouri-St. Louis 1 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Missouri-St. Louis 3 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Grand Valley State 4 p.m.



Puma Women Looking Towards Strong Finish

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

There are many traditions that exist within the state of Indiana. If someone asked what was one attribute of Indiana and all of its residents, it would be one thing: fervor for basketball.

Basketball lies in the hearts of all Hoosiers, even before people like Gene Hackman or Bobby Knight existed. The aura that surrounds any arena, high school, college, or recreational venue, is transcended by none when ten players arrive on the court to engage in extra-curricular activity.

This same aura permeates throughout the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse whenever a game must be decided.

The Saint Joseph's Women's Basketball team in 2005 has worked hard to uphold the tradition of excellence surrounding Puma basketball.

Head Coach John Raff is entering his third season of coaching Puma basketball, and senior point guard Courtney Rosenbaum and junior guard Ashley Hughes have taken the helm as captains. Although their 3-17 overall and 2-11 conference record denotes otherwise, the Puma women have much passion, fervor, and dedication to the sport.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference has become a marquee basketball conference for both Men



Ashley (right) and Allison Hughes will look to anchor the Pumas next season.

and Women's teams the past several years. Not only has the conference exhibited its share of ominous opponents, namely Quincy and Bellarmine, but the Pumas have undergone a few key injuries that have hurt the team. Guards Allison Hughes, Taleah Sanford, and Jennifer Graham, as well as forward Amy Harming have experienced injuries early-on in the season.

Without key players and starters contributing to offense and defense, it is no wonder, then, why the road to

Evansville is filled with many obstacles and shortcomings.

Despite the frustration and disappointment, the Women's basketball team has approached their adversity with class and an open mind.

Junior forward Rachel Theodore is very pleased with the cohesiveness of the squad this year. "We are close. We work together and are dedicated."

For any collegiate program, that is the key ingredient for success. Looking ahead, the Puma women can

only do better. Their recruiting class for next year looks to be yet another promising one, and there is only one senior on the team.

This team is still young, and with maturity and their experiences from this year, they will accomplish great things.

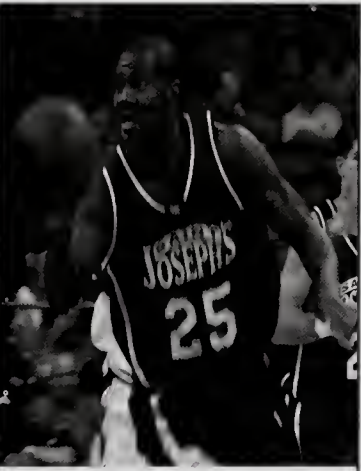
Lone senior Courtney Rosenbaum, who started her last season as a Puma by becoming a member of the 1,000-point club, has this to say about the future of Puma women's basketball: "The girls on the squad are extremely talented and their success depends upon their effort. I know they can do awesome things in years to come."

Fortunately for the Pumas, five of their next seven games are at Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse, setting up the Pumas for a strong finish and a potential berth in the GLVC conference tournament.

In March, anything is possible. So come and support the Pumas as they entertain conference standings leader Quincy on Feb. 3rd and Missouri-St. Louis on February 5th. They have everything to gain.

Story Idea? E-mail us at amh4118@saintjoe.edu

Pumas Getting Great Individual Performances



Junior Sullivan Sykes is fourth in the GLVC in scoring at 18.5 ppg and 12th in rebounding at 5.8 and steals at 1.41.



Junior Derek Fey is first in rebounding at 10.3 rpg, second in blocked shots with 1.47 per game, and 18th in scoring at 12.4 ppg.

Here are the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings as of February 3rd. The Pumas have a great opportunity to finish the season in the top-three. Their upcoming games are winnable, featuring bottom-feeders such as Missouri-St. Louis and Bellarmine. They'll also have the opportunity to move up in the standings and control their own destiny by facing teams such as SIU, Edwardsville, and Indianapolis.

	GLVC			OVERALL				
TEAM	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	Home	Away	Neut.	Strk.
SIU Edwardsville	10-2	.833	17-4	.810	12-1	3-3	2-0	L-1
Southern Indiana	10-2	.833	15-4	.789	12-0	2-4	1-0	W-5
Indianapolis	9-3	.750	14-5	.737	9-1	5-3	0-1	W-2
Saint Joseph's	8-5	.616	12-7	.632	7-2	4-5	1-0	L-1
Quincy	8-5	.616	12-7	.632	9-3	3-4	0-0	W-2
Kentucky Wesleyan	7-6	.538	12-7	.632	8-3	4-4	0-0	L-1
Northern Kentucky	5-8	.385	9-10	.474	6-3	3-7	0-0	L-2
UW-Parkside	4-9	.308	7-13	.350	2-5	5-8	0-0	L-2
Bellarmine	3-10	.231	8-11	.422	7-3	1-8	0-0	W-1
Lewis	3-10	.231	8-12	.400	6-7	2-5	0-0	W-1
Missouri-St. Louis	3-10	.231	6-13	.316	2-6	4-7	0-0	L-2

Valentine's Day Trivia

110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.

15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

Romantic cards are the best-sellers. Victorian era-influenced cards are prominent this year.

More than 50 percent of cards are sold the week of the holiday, with the largest and most elaborate Valentine cards sold 48 hours before February 14.

Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members

Hallmark has over 1330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.

Conversation Hearts: In 1866, candy manufacturer NECCO made the first "Conversation Hearts" — then called "Motto Hearts." According to NECCO, eight billion of these little candies are sold between January 1 and February 14.

More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.

The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

Courtesy of <http://www.theromantic.com/valentinesday/trivia.htm>

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Do you have an original short story, poem, reflection, comic, or other work that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at swh4014@saintjoe.edu to submit your work.

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Even though you have been very productive lately concerning school work, you will soon face several disruptions that will threaten to put an end to your productivity. Keep your priorities straight, and don't be afraid to turn someone down if they don't have your best interest at heart.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Actions speak louder than words, so be careful not to lie about something when you clearly are showing others your true feelings. Even though you may be trying to protect someone's feelings, he or she will see right through your charade and your friendship may be threatened.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Don't give in to feelings of extravagance right now, as you will be likely to do so. Keep in mind what is really important and stay with the essentials, because you are likely to use bad judgment and cross the line. You will not regret your prudence later.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

If one of your closest friends seems to be extraordinarily moody right now, try to sit back and be flexible with him or her. Even though it seems like this person is controlling, he or she cannot help this moodiness, and will appreciate your flexibility down the road.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Everything seems to be going very well for you right now, and you can't get over the extreme sense of satisfaction you're feeling. Don't take it for granted; be sure to let those around you know how important and special they are in your life.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are full of passion and zeal concerning an issue which is very important to you, so be sure to utilize those feelings into something productive. Take action now while you can, and you will be very pleased with how much you can enact change around you.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

The best thing you can do right now is to simply take some time off and relax. In your busy schedule you have been repeatedly neglecting yourself, which is becoming very detrimental to your mental health. Take the day off and do something only for you.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Sit back and let things happen as they may. Worrying about what could happen will only stress you out. You cannot change the inevitable, and right now, you shouldn't try to. Things will work out for the best, even if at first it may not seem that they will.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Do not be shocked if something you thought was permanent turns out not to be. Nothing in life is certain, and you should always be prepared for changes that may occur. Even if something devastating does happen, remain calm, because it will be for the best.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Sometimes your intuition is far more accurate than your physical senses, so don't be afraid to rely on first impressions that seem to have no real basis. Sometimes you can sense something about a person before knowing him or her, and you should not ignore these suspicions.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Try to break the habit of consistently comparing yourself to others. What is good for one is not necessarily good for all, and you will soon come to realize that you have been following the crowd for far too long. Your individuality is unique, and don't be afraid to show it off!

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If something is weighing on your mind right now, seek out the advice of a trusted mentor. You may be unable to see the full perspective of your dilemma, and an older, wiser individual should be able to enlighten you and alleviate your worries.

WAFFLEHEAD: HORROR OF HORRORS



BY JAMES M COCHRAN

SJC Poet's Corner

Later

I said goodbye today.
Not the normal kind of
goodbye,
The kind that really means "see
ya later."
No, it wasn't that kind at all.
This was a real goodbye.

I said goodbye today.
But I didn't say "goodbye,"
I said "see ya later."
I meant goodbye, but I didn't
say it.
It's better this way.

I said goodbye today.
It was the hardest thing I've
ever done,
But I'm sure I'll still see ya
later,
Not for a long, long time,
But this can't be goodbye.

I said goodbye today.

-Sandra Wood

I Thought Of You Today

I thought of you today.
I don't really know why.
Maybe it's because today was the
day
we were supposed to be together.
Or maybe it's because the rain fell
softly outside my window.
I don't know...

I just thought of you...

Today...

- Lanie Jonkman

Who's There?

"Who's there?" I asked.
"Who's there?" I asked again.
"Who's there?" I asked once
more.
There was no answer.
Yet, there were footprints beside
me
in the soft gray snow.

-Dani Klosowski

The Last Night

My days are numbered as the
end draws near
I have nothing left to love and
nothing left to fear
I have seen and done the worst
And now my life is cursed
As I sit now in my eight by
eight
I wait out to see my doomed
fate
Tomorrow morning at dawn
My life's final painting will be
drawn
The image of the chair is stuck
in my mind
The death warrant signed
I have lived a pathetic life but I
don't regret
Not being straight with God is
my only fret
Whatever the afterlife brings
Like a man I will take those
things
For the families who I have
crossed
I am sorry for the kin you have
lost
I have rotted in my cell

I can hear the tolling of the
bells
Just three hours left
Then I take my last breath
But how can this be right
The executioner has taken more
lives
He gets to walk free
When I'll be dead as can be
Not like it matters I've been
charged with the crime
And I have done my time
The last two hours have flown
by
As I sat all alone in my
personal sty
This is it my final hour
My last sixty minutes to cower
As I say goodbye to earth
I hope to get a good rebirth
If not oh well
I will sit with the devil in hell

-Jeff McDole

Want to see your poem in
print??? Email
swh4014@saintjoe.edu